RUGGED POINT MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Date: March 26/03

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Date: March 26/03

RUGGED POINT MARINE PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Rugged Point Marine Park is to provide a remote marine recreation experience in the Kyuquot Sound area off the west coast of Vancouver Island. This remote wilderness area offers magnificent scenery, a challenging hiking trail and preserves one of the most beautiful stretches of shoreline on the entire west coast. Kayaking, wilderness camping, picnicking, swimming and fishing are added attractions of the park and the surrounding area. Facilities include a pit toilet, boardwalk, picnic shelter, food cache, and information shelter. The park has three conditional anchorages on the north side, and if weather conditions are not ideal boaters can anchor in nearby Dixie Cove Marine Park, and visit Rugged Point as a day trip. It serves as a stopping point for those people who are exploring the west side of Vancouver Island by boat.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect the natural values associated with the temperate rainforest on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Much of this type of forest has been developed through forestry and is no longer in its natural state. By protecting the coastal fringe, the park protects an intact old growth forest of Sitka spruce and Douglas-fir, and coastal habitat for wildlife such as black bears, deer, cougars, sea otters, marbled murrelets, migrant gray whales, diving ducks, shorebirds, and bald eagles.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Impacts of adjacent logging, user developed camping sites, bear/human conflict, off-road vehicle access, commercial harvesting on the scenic and natural values	➢ Implement BRIM to assess recreation use impacts. ➢ Develop a bear/human conflict plan. ➢ Implement recommendations from danger tree assessment (i.e. relocate camping sites). ➢ Work with DFO to ensure harvesting does not interfere with protection of marine species, especially sea otters. ➢ Review forest development plans to assess their impact on park values. ➢ Supply public information at logging camps and local communities on the impact of off-road vehicles on park values, and discourage trail formation. ➢ Maintain presence of park staff.
Lack of detailed knowledge of natural and cultural values	➢ Inventory ecological values to confirm wildlife species in the park. ➢ Undertake a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.
First Nation relations	➢ Develop good working relationships with First Nations to gain an understanding and appreciation of protected area status and park values.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone – covers the entire park (349 hectares) in recognition of the natural and recreational values. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Rugged Point Marine Park contributes very minimally (0.07%) to the representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4% It makes a minimal contribution (0.17%) to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection (VIS), which is under represented at 5.4%
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Minimal contribution (0.17%) to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented at 19.3%
Special Features	☒	Old growth Sitka spruce, gray whale and sea otter habitat
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	*Red-listed* marbled murrelet and sea otter. *Blue-listed* gray whale. COSEWIC-listed threatened northern abalone.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Rare species, coastal old growth fringe habitats

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Conditional anchorages; beach camping; fishing; kayaking
travel corridor	☒	Kayaking/ boating route; popular mooring for outside waters
local recreation	☒	Sports fishing
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Natural values

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values Unknown
Special Feature	☒	Burial site

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable

Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of marine protected areas on the outside coast of Vancouver Island
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Risks include oil spills, adjacent logging, commercial harvesting, blowdown, bear/human conflicts, user developed camping sites, and off road vehicle access.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy

Area: 349 hectares (162 ha upland, 187 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: August 10, 1989

Zoning Map - Rugged Point Marine Park

Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 500
m

Produced in Mar 2003 for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection by MSRM, Decision Support Services

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